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My dear Lord Reading,

We have just sent our representation with reference to the Government of India's communication, received recently, laying down certain general principles for a pro tanto remission of the subsidies or tributes payable by some of the Indian States. Your Excellency was pleased to make a reference to the question in your memorable speech at the Banquet in Mysore.

I am appealing to Your Excellency personally once again in this matter which closely affects the position and dignity of my State and myself because there are certain aspects of the question which can be more appropriately and frankly referred to in a personal letter rather than in an official communication. I trust that I am not trespassing unduly upon your time or patience.

There are two questions concerning my State, which I have very much at heart, and which I look to Your Excellency to dispose of during your term of office. One is the Subsidy question, and the other, the transfer of Civil Jurisdiction over the C. & M. Station Assigned Tract to Mysore. I have already given Your Excellency a note on the latter question, and I shall not, therefore, say anything more on the subject here. I shall only deal, and that very briefly, with the Subsidy question in this letter.

In the old days when the First Treaty was made the Government of the East India Company were in the position of having won the Mysore country by

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right of conquest, and the imposition of a heavy subsidy, as one of the conditions of restoring the sovereignty to the old Hindu Rajas, was a natural thing. Now, however, political conditions have completely changed, the days of the old Company Bahadur as the Paramount Power have long since passed away, and their successors are handing over the control of the country to an Indian Executive controlled by elected Councils. The whole constitution of the British Government in India has been thrown, as it were, into the melting pot, and it is impossible to foresee the future.

Times are changing and we must change with them. The Reform Scheme does not apply to Indian States, and in the future British India and the Indian States will have each to work out their own salvation on distinct and independent lines - British India as a Democracy, and the Indian States as separate governments with some form of constitutional monarchy.

It would be highly anomalous to retain the subsidies under the altered conditions. It is one thing for a State like Mysore to pay a tribute to a Paramount Power like the present Supreme Govern ment, but an entirely different thing to be tributary to an Indian administration which is to take the place to a great extent of the British Paramount Power. The only possible and dignified position for Indian States, under the Reform Scheme, is one of independent alliance, and from this point of view the subsidies, as tokens of vassalage, should be abolished, unless the Indian Princes are to lose a large portion of their prestige, and placed in

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a position of marked inferiority to a supreme Government, composed of a majority of their own races belonging to a social class far beneath them in rank.

The question of the subsidy should be looked at not merely as a question of rupees, annas and pies. We should not merely consider whether the Government of India can afford to forego Rs 35 lakhs of revenue, and whether Mysore has been a "good boy" and has earned, by good behaviour, the concession which she asks for. It is a much wider question involving political considerations connected with the Reform Scheme which need to be dealt with by a statesman like you, possessing wide and liberal views and a prophetic vision.

And now Your Excellency, I have stated my case, and relying on your well-known sense of justice I confidently leave the decision in your hands.

I do not ask for any reply to this letter. It is simply a personal appeal.

With the assurance of my regard and esteem for you,

I am,

Yours very sincerely,